

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 157
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Naomi Williamson Blanks of Trezevant .

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Naomi Williamson Blanks, respected educator and dedicated community servant; on July 2, 2004 and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blanks prepared for a professional career in English education by completing a Bachelor's degree from Bethel College, where she graduated with honors in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blanks initiated her teaching career by instructing high school English students for several years at Trezevant Jr. High School and McKenzie High School before accepting a position as a professor at Bethel College, her beloved alma mater; and

WHEREAS, a revered member of the Bethel College community, Mrs. Blanks taught with great acumen and zeal as an English professor, in which position she earned the respect of her students, peers, and administrators alike for the exemplary quality of her work and her life-long commitment to self-examination and study; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blanks academic accomplishments include her selection in 1975 as the Bethel College Teacher of the Year; she was also selected to share her gift of teaching with students at Sarajevo University in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia during the summer of 1984; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blanks was an active and devout member of Trezevant United Methodist Church, which she served faithfully for many years as the church organist, a Sunday school teacher, and as a participant in the Methodist Women's District; and

WHEREAS, as a valued member of the Trezevant community with an unfaltering interest in serving others, Mrs. Blanks was generous both in heart and in deed; in addition to the good works performed for her church and school families, she was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Carroll County Developmental Center; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her commitment to serving others, Mrs. Naomi Blanks received the Methodist Women's District Service award in 1985 and again in 1992, and was appointed an honorary Kentucky Colonel by the Governor of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her constancy of faith and dedication to her community, Mrs. Blanks was also deeply committed to, devoted to, and inspired by her adoring family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, as a remembrance of Mrs. Blank's dedication to the pursuit of knowledge, spiritual growth, and intellectual fortitude, the Naomi Blanks English Award at Bethel College has been established in her honor; and

WHEREAS, Naomi Williamson Blanks leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and lived as a model for others in her commitment to God, her family, and the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the life of this exceptional lady and beloved human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mrs. Naomi Williamson Blanks, devoted family woman and faithful servant of the Lord, reflecting fondly upon her life of dedication and service to her family and her community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our deepest condolences and to Mrs. Blanks's family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.